



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501
HELENA MT 59620-2501
www.opi.mt.gov
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 2-4-2009

BILL NO. SB69 + SB70

Denise Juneau
Superintendent

To: Members of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee

From: Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Re: Budget

Date: February 4, 2009

Dear Senator Laible and Committee Members,

As you know, adequate funding is critical to ensure a quality education for all Montana's students - no matter their background, their heritage, their economic status, or geographic location. Public education is the only endeavor that our state constitution requires the Legislature to fund. "The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools... It shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic and elementary and secondary school system."

Public education is still the great equalizer; and sufficient funding will ensure an educational system that fosters student excellence and gives our students the tools they need to solve the economic crisis we face as a nation. An investment in public education will create a better future for Montana.

Thank you for your support of SB 69 and SB 70.